REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 10 are amended. Claim 4 is amended editorially. The revisions to claims 1, 5, 9, and 10 are supported, for example, at original claim 3, and at page 7, lines 9-13 in the specification. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-10 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being independent.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 7, 8, and 10 are allowed and that claims 3-5 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant traverses this rejection. However, claim 9 has been amended in light of the Examiner's comments and Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,568 (Glenn). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor device. The Examiner has indicated that claim 3 is allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to include substantially the same features as those recited in claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1, and is also believed allowable for at least the reason that it is dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 2 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and is also believed allowable for at least the reason that it is dependent upon an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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